



Cooperation in Flood Risk Management in Transboundary Waters

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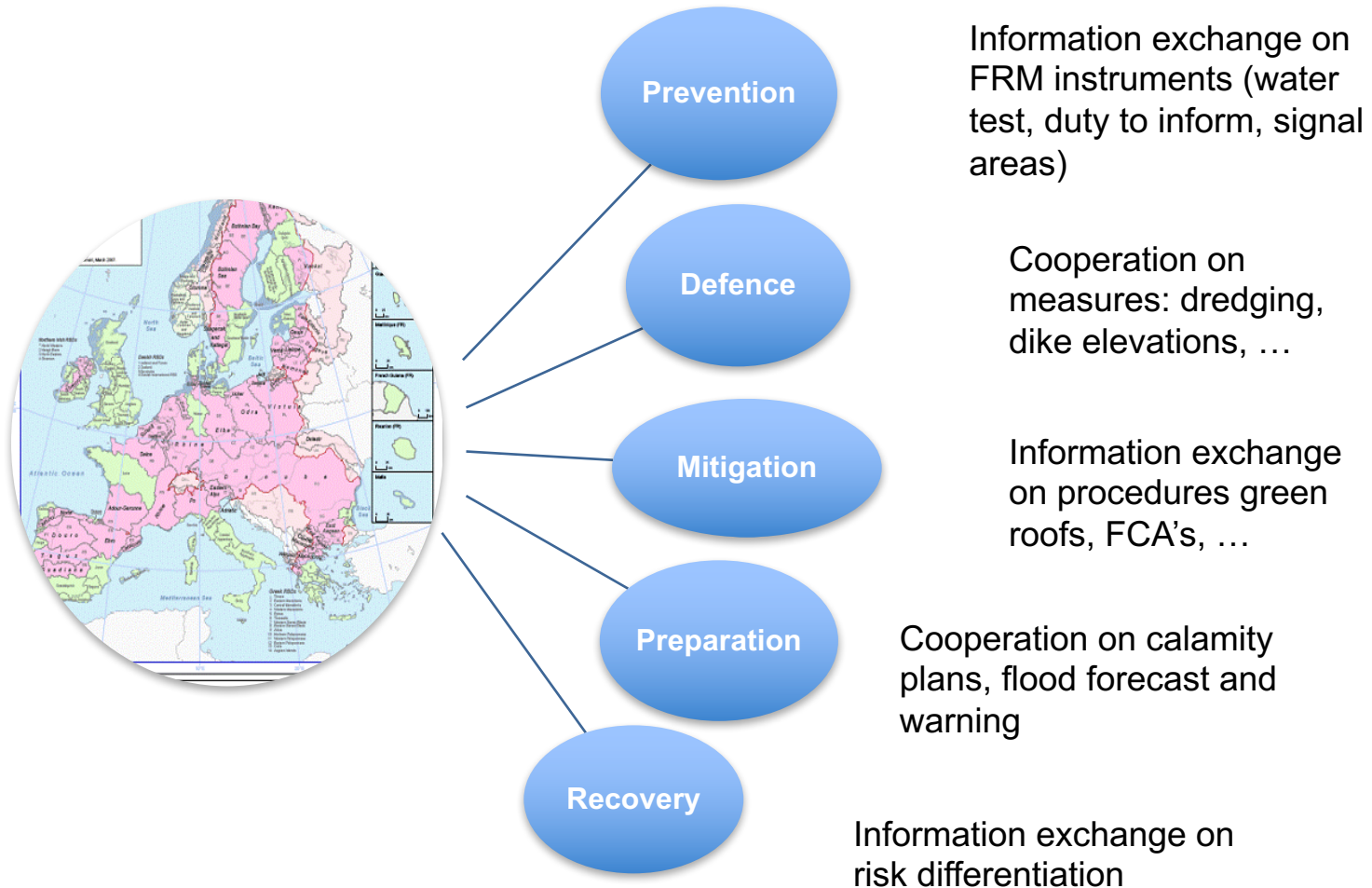


Cooperation between MS in IRBDs: challenge of multi-level governance

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Cooperation in Flood Risk Management: Flood Risk Management Strategies



Cooperation between MS in IRBDs: what?

- **International River Basin Districts**
- **Solidarity** principle / transference of risks
- Bulk of cooperation lies in drafting the **Plans**:
 - FRMPs general: no measures negatively impacting other MS
- **Co-productions?**
 - Within EU (eg Meuse and Scheldt): MS shall **ensure coordination with the aim** of producing a single international flood risk management plan - if not, plans cover own territories
 - Beyond EU (eg Rhine and Danube): MS shall **endeavor** to produce 1 plan

Obligation of
Best Effort

Cooperation between MS in IRBDs: how?

- **How** should MS cooperate?
 - May be based on existing international mechanisms
 - Differ greatly, eg Rhine v Meuse and Scheldt
 - Meuse Treaty (BE, DE, FR, LU, NL)
 - » International Meuse Commission: no binding powers
 - Rhine Convention (DE, FR, LU, NL, S)
 - » International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine (ICPR): binding powers
 - Serve other purposes than implementation WFD / FD
 - Implementation of the UNECE Water Convention
 - Informal platform for cooperation: Common Implementation Strategy

Cooperation: Bottlenecks and opportunities



- Doubts re **enforceability of cooperation** requirements
 - IRBD not identified as unit of governance
 - No legal consequences in case of failed cooperation
 - No obligation international RBMPs / FRMPs
 - Solidarity requirement: “significant increase” unclear
 - Individual accountability MS
 - Referral to existing international mechanisms as/is likely inadequate in EU context

Declaration of Middelburg: principles of transboundary cooperation



- International cooperation: importance of regional and interregional cooperation
- EU-subsidies & support
- Methodologies
- Cooperation starts with those at charge at similar levels
- Start simple, create support mechanism
- Build trust
- Share knowledge / vision
- River basin ambassadors work on transboundary trust
- ...



